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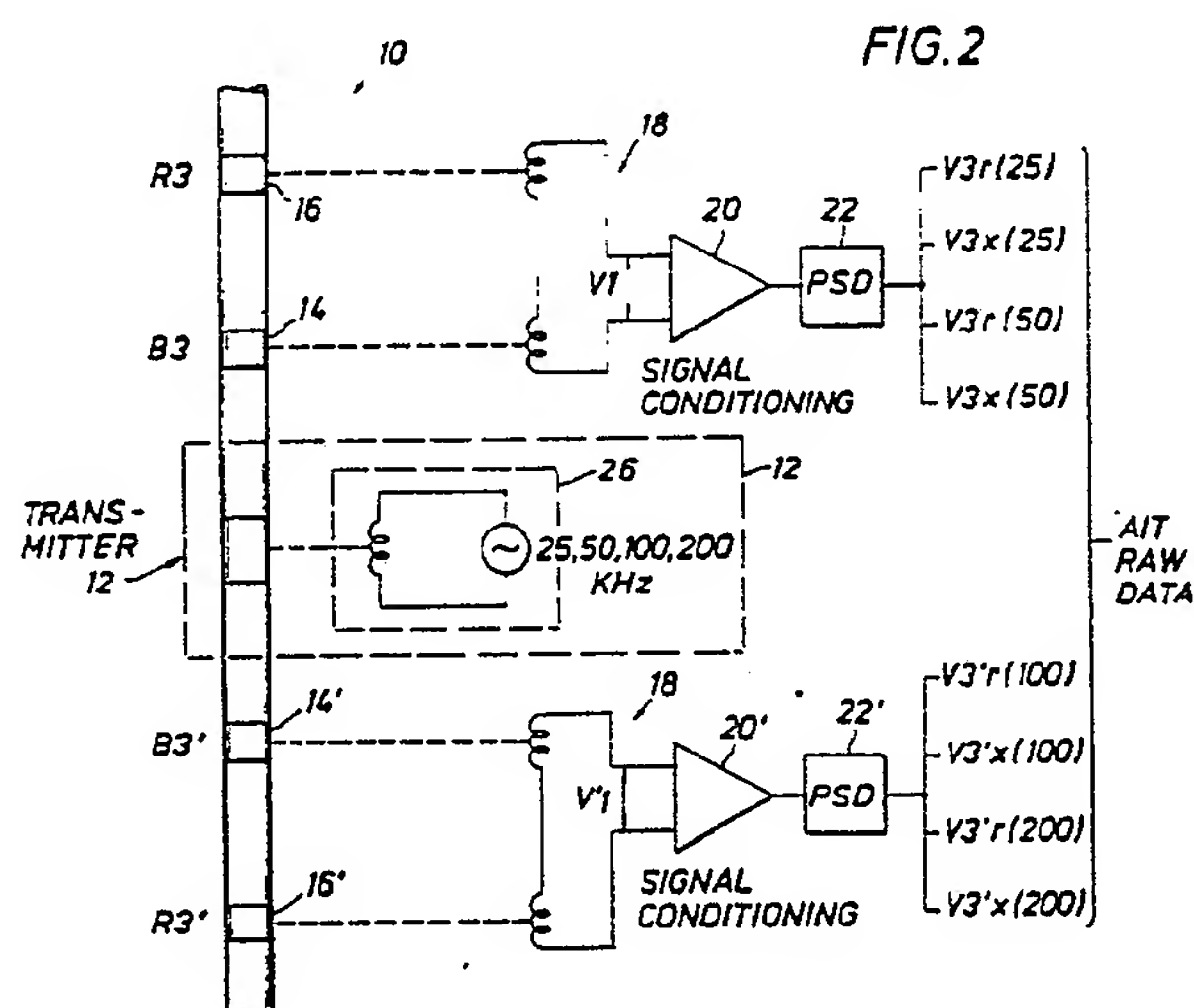
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(54) Multifrequency signal transmitter for an array induction well logging apparatus.

57) A transmitter for an induction well logging tool, adapted to be disposed in the borehole of an oil well, develops an output signal for energizing the borehole formation which inherently consists of six separate signal components, the six components including four primary signal components which simultaneously energize the borehole formation inducing in the formation four primary eddy currents. These four primary eddy currents are detected by the array induction tool receiver, the received signals being used to determine the resistivity and conductivity of the borehole formation.



MULTIFREQUENCY SIGNAL TRANSMITTER FOR AN ARRAY INDUCTION WELL LOGGING APPARATUS

The invention of the subject application pertains to an induction logging apparatus for oil well boreholes and more particularly to a multifrequency signal transmitter associated with the induction logging apparatus for generating a multifrequency output signal that induces in the formation eddy currents corresponding to each frequency of the multifrequency signal.

An induction logging apparatus disposed in the borehole of an oil well basically comprises at least one transmitter and at least two receiving coils mounted on a support and axially spaced from each other in the direction of the borehole. The transmitting coil is energized by an alternating current at a frequency which is typically 20 KHz and generates an electromagnetic field which induces in the formation surrounding the borehole eddy currents which flow coaxially to the borehole, the intensity of which is proportional to the conductivity of the formation. The field generated in turn by these eddy currents induces in the receiving coil an electromotive force (EMF), which produces a received signal in the receiving coil. By suitably processing the received signal from the receiving coil, a measurement of the conductivity of the formation is obtained.

The transmitter associated with prior art induction tools produced a signal at a single frequency. This single frequency signal induced eddy currents in the surrounding formation corresponding to the single frequency of the transmitted signal. While a corresponding received signal from the receiving coil may be processed, the amount of information corresponding to the conductivity of the formation, derived from the processing of the single frequency signal, is limited. If a multi-frequency signal transmitter is developed, which generates a multifrequency signal and which induces multiple eddy currents in the surrounding formation, much more information may be derived. The additional information, when used with suitable signal processing techniques, can be used to obtain improved estimates of the earth's conductivity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is a primary object of the present invention to develop a transmitter for an induction well logging tool which transmits a signal into a surrounding formation which inherently includes a multiple number of frequencies.

It is a further object of the present invention to develop the transmitter for the array induction well

logging tool which generates an output signal that produces currents in the transmitter coil which are inversely proportional to the square of their respective frequencies.

It is a further object of the present invention to develop a low pass filter for the transmitter associated with the induction well logging tool, the filter substantially suppressing the signals inherent in the transmitter output signal which possess a frequency of greater than or equal to 300 KHz.

Due to limited availability of power in a subsurface sensor, it is a further objective of this invention to generate the required currents while consuming a minimum amount of power.

In accordance with these and other objects of the present invention, a filtered voltage waveform is applied to a transmitter coil which, when subject to a Fourier expansion, inherently includes a multiple number of frequencies. An unfiltered voltage waveform output is input to a low pass filter which attenuates inherent signals having frequencies greater than 300 KHz. When the resultant filtered voltage waveform, from the low pass filter, is analyzed via a Fourier expansion, the following frequency response characteristics are evident: the amplitudes of the signals at each successive frequency fall off by a factor of $1/f$, where f is a frequency corresponding to 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 (X 25 KHz), with the exception of f equal 3, 6, 9, 10, 11,...(X 25 KHz) where the amplitudes are greatly reduced. When the filtered voltage waveform, with frequency components proportional to $1/f$, is applied to the transmitter coil, whose impedance varies as f , the resulting frequency components of the current through the transmitter coil exhibits a desired $(1/f)^2$ characteristic. Since multiple frequency signals simultaneously energize the formation surrounding the array induction well logging tool, more information (from different depths of investigation) is detected, via the receiving coils of the tool, than was previously the case with respect to the single frequency signal generated from the prior art transmitter.

Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description presented hereinafter. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description and the specific examples, while representing a preferred embodiment of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become obvious to one skilled in the art from a reading of the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full understanding of the present invention will be obtained from the detailed description of the preferred embodiment presented hereinbelow, and the accompanying drawings, which are given by way of illustration only and are not intended to be limitative of the present invention, and wherein:

figure 1 is an illustration depicting an induction tool in the borehole of an oil well, including a transmitter and a plurality of receiver coils;

figure 2 is another illustration depicting solely the transmitter and the plurality of receiver coils;

figures 3a - 3b are views of a prior art transmitter associated with a prior art array induction tool;

figure 4 illustrates a model of the transmitter of the present invention;

figure 5 illustrates a low power implementation of the transmitter of figure 4 including a low pass filter for filtering out frequencies greater than 300 KHz;

figure 5a illustrates a more complete construction of the transmitter of figure 5;

figure 6a-6b illustrates a view of the low pass filter of figure 5;

figure 7 illustrates a view of the output signal generated by the transmitter of figure 5 prior to low pass filtering; and

figure 8 illustrates the Fourier expansion of the output signal of figure 7, the inherent signals including only signals at frequencies corresponding to 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 times 25 KHz.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figure 1, a borehole of an oil well is illustrated. An induction tool 10 is disposed in the borehole, the tool 10 being connected by a wireline cable to a well-logging truck at the surface of the well. The well-logging truck contains a computer. The well-logging truck computer may comprise any typical computer, such as the computer set forth in U. S. Patent 4,713,751 entitled "Masking Commands for a Second Processor When a First Processor Requires a Flushing Operation in a Multiprocessor System", the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference into the specification of this application. The tool comprises one transmitter coil 12 and a plurality of receivers 18 (eg., nine in number), each consisting of two coils. The transmitter coil is energized by a known reference current consisting of four or more frequencies, approximately 25, 50, 100, and 200 kHz (kiloHertz).

The transmitter coil generates an electric field in the formation, which produces a coaxial eddy current proportional to the formation conductivity which then induces an electromotive force (EMF) in each of the 9 receivers. Each receiver 18 comprises a main coil and a bucking coil connected in series.

Referring to Figure 2, a more detailed construction of the tool 10, of Figure 1, is illustrated. The EMF induced in each receiver coil 18 produces a voltage signal V1, the magnitude of which depends on formation characteristics. The voltage signal V1 is amplified, filtered into two or more separate frequencies, and resolved into in-phase and quadrature components, by the circuitry 20, 22. The voltage is represented in complex (phasor) notation with the in-phase component as the real part of a complex number, and the quadrature (90-degree out-of-phase) component as the imaginary part of the complex number. Two frequencies are selected for each of the nine arrays. Thus for each depth of the tool in the well, eighteen (18) complex voltages are recorded. This data set will be referred to as "raw data". The raw data are transmitted by telemetry to the logging truck computer at the surface for processing.

The tool 10 of Figure 2 is set forth in detail in prior pending application Serial No. 043,130, filed April 27, 1987, entitled "Induction Logging Method and Apparatus", the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference into the specification of this application.

In Figure 2, simple individual arrays are preferred generally consisting of a single transmitter coil 12 and two receiver coils 16, 14 (16', 14'). The basic three-coil induction sensor includes a primary receiver coil 16 located at a distance L from the transmitter. A secondary or bucking coil 14 acts as a mutual inductance balancing coil. The secondary coil is connected in series with the primary coil, but is wound in an opposite sense to the primary coil. The placement of the secondary coil between the transmitter coil 12 and the primary receiver coil 16 is a matter of choice, but once its placement is fixed, the number of its windings may be selected so as substantially to balance or null the direct mutual coupling between the transmitter and the receiver array. If the position of the bucking coil is selected to be $3L/4$ or three-fourths of the distance between the transmitter coil 12 and the primary receiver coil 16, the number of turns in the bucking coil should be approximately $(0.75)^3 = 0.422$ times the number of turns in the primary coil in order to achieve the balanced condition.

Preferably the tool 10 is constructed of a number of these simple arrays by placing a single transmitter 12 at the center of the tool and placing pairs of receiver coils, such as pairs 16, 14 and

16', 14', on either side of it. Amplifiers 20, 20' and phase-sensitive detectors 22, 22' (PSD) may be constructed of conventional analog induction electronics. As illustrated, a multi-frequency oscillator 26, operating at four frequencies 25, 50, 100 and 200 kHz, excite transmitter 12. The receiver arrays, spaced, for example, three feet from transmitter 12, respond with voltage signals, V1, V1' which depend on formation characteristics. Such voltage signals are amplified, filtered into frequency components at 25, 50, 100, or 200 kHz, and resolved into in-phase and quadrature (90-degree out-of-phase) components.

Referring to figure 3a, a model of the prior art induction logging tool transmitter is illustrated. In figure 3a, a current source I energizes capacitor C and inductor L. Since C and L are connected in parallel, a tuned circuit is formed. Switches "S1" and "S2" open and close in a manner which, in association with the tuned circuit formed by C and L, produce a sinusoidal current in the inductor L, which is also the transmitter coil. Since C and L form a tuned circuit, one output signal i_L is produced predominantly at one frequency, the resonant frequency (f_0) of the tuned circuit formed by capacitor C and inductor L. Therefore, essentially only one eddy current is induced in the formation of the borehole in response to the single frequency voltage signal V. Less information may be derived from the single frequency eddy current, when a received signal is detected by receiver coil 18.

Referring to figure 4, a low power implementation model of the induction logging tool transmitter of the present invention is illustrated. In figure 4, the capacitor C is no longer positioned in parallel with inductor L. Therefore, the tuned circuit of figure 3a has been removed allowing the generation of a multitone excitation in the transmitter inductor, L. The desired voltage waveform, V (shown in figure 7), is generated under the control of switches 12a-12d. In figure 4, switch 12a is connected in series to switch 12b. Switch 12c is connected in series with switch 12d, but in parallel with switches 12a and 12b. Inductor L 12e is interconnected between the nodes formed by switches 12a/12b and 12c/12d. Voltage source V is connected in parallel with capacitor C. However, a Fourier expansion of the output signal V across the inductor L reveals that components of the signal exist at frequencies greater than or equal to 9×25 KHz. These components are undesirable and should be removed.

In operation, referring alternately to figures 4 and 7. The voltage between times $t=1$ and $t=2$ is generated by closing switches 12a and 12d. This forces a voltage equal to the power supply voltage across the transmitter inductor. The voltage between times $t=2$ and $t=3$ is produced by closing

switches 12b and 12c. This forces a voltage across the transmitter inductor which is equal in magnitude to the power supply voltage, but which is opposite in polarity. The voltage between times $t=3$ and $t=4$ is forced to zero by closing the switches 12b and 12d. A Fourier analysis of the waveform shown in figure 7 will reveal that the magnitude of the voltage components produced across the transmitter inductor L are given by:

$$\text{mag } v(nf_0) = 0.955V/n, n = 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, \dots$$

$$0.0, n = 3, 6, 9, 12, \dots$$

where $f_0 = 1/(t_4 - t_1)$ is the fundamental frequency produced and n represents the respective harmonic number. f_0 is typically 20 or 25 KHz. Note that the harmonics which are a multiple of 3 have been suppressed. This is desirable as only the harmonics 1, 2, 4, and 8 are used in the signal processing. The other harmonics, if produced would increase power consumption and decrease signal processing accuracy.

Due to the nature of the coupling of the transmitted current to the received voltage through the conductive earth, it is highly desirable that each of the primary current components (i.e. harmonics 1, 2, 4, and 8) in the transmitter be inversely proportional to the square of the frequency of that respective component. Tailoring the current in this manner ideally results in constant amplitude voltage harmonics in the receiver which in turn assures equal accuracy in signal processing of the individual frequency components. Since the current in an inductor is inversely proportional to the frequency of oscillation of the voltage across the inductor, and the inductor's voltage components are inversely proportional to their respective frequencies, then the current in the transmitter coil will be inversely proportional to the square of the oscillation frequency as desired.

The transmitter current magnitude is then:

$$\text{mag } i_{\text{trans}}(nf_0) = v(nf_0)/(2\pi n f_0 L)$$

$$\text{mag } i_{\text{trans}}(nf_0) = 0.955V/(2\pi f_0 L n^2), n = 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, \dots$$

$$= 0.0, n = 3, 6, 9, 12, \dots$$

As power consumption in downhole tools is a major concern, the circuitry has been designed to minimize dissipation. As in the tuned circuit concept of the prior art, the capacitor retains its role as an energy storage element and charge reservoir, and energy is transferred with minimum loss from the capacitor to the inductor and vice versa. This energy cycling action allows the generation of a large inductor current while requiring a minimum of energy from the power supply (represented by the voltage source). The total energy required from the power supply by the circuit in figure 4 is primarily that which is dissipated in the equivalent resistance of the transmitter coil. A secondary, but relatively small source of dissipation, is the switching ele-

ments themselves. Generation of the transmitter current in this manner requires an order of magnitude less power from the power supply than would be required using linear techniques.

As noted in the Fourier series expansions above, the circuit as indicated in figure 4 produces an infinite number of harmonics which decrease as $1/n$. We desire to limit the harmonic spectrum generated such that it contains the least amount of extraneous outputs as these higher frequency components can cause degradation of the measurement. A low pass filter (12f) as shown in figure 5 is necessary to limit the spectra generated. The preferred implementation is shown in figure 6a. As the capacitor C0 becomes very large, a classical 2 pole low pass filter topology is approached. The filter's frequency response characteristics, especially close to the cut off frequency, can be controlled by the damping resistor, R0. The capacitive coupling of R0 differs from the prior art as this element is generally direct coupled. The purpose of C0 is to minimize the power dissipation in the filter by increasing the shunt impedance across L at low frequencies where the voltage magnitude is highest (dissipation is proportional to the square of the voltage across R0). At frequencies close to cut off of the filter, the reactance of C0 decreases to an extent that the resistor R0 effectively dampens the resonance peak of the filter, preventing an unacceptable amplification in the vicinity of cut off. The voltage magnitude in the vicinity of cut off is much less than that at lower frequencies, and dissipation is minimized.

Referring to figure 5, the model of the induction logging tool transmitter of figure 4, in accordance with the present invention, is shown again, except that a filter F 12f connects the nodes between switches 12a/12b and 12c/12d to the inductor L 12e, the transmitter coil, across which another output signal Vo is measured. The filter F 12f converts the output signal V to the output signal Vo, across the inductor. The output signals V and Vo are illustrated in figure 7 of the drawings. Figure 5a illustrates a more complete construction of the transmitter of figure 5.

In operation, referring alternately to figures 5, 5a and figure 7 of the drawings, during the time period between $t=1$ and $t=2$, switches 12a and 12d are closed and switches 12b and 12c are open. Therefore, the pulse of figure 7 during $t=1$ to $t=2$ appears across the inductor L of figures 5 and 5a. Between $t=2$ and $t=3$, switches 12b and 12c are closed and switches 12a and 12d are open. Therefore, the pulse of figure 7 during $t=2$ and $t=3$ appears across the inductor L of figures 5 and 5a. Between $t=3$ and $t=4$, switches 12a and 12c are open and switches 12b and 12d are closed. Therefore, no voltage appears across in-

ductor L of fig 5 and 5a. Beginning at $t=4$, the cycle referenced above repeats itself. Referring to figure 6a, a construction of the filter F 12f of figures 5 and 5a is illustrated. The filter F is characterized by the frequency response characteristic of figure 6b. The resistor (R0) & capacitor (Co) series connection of figure 6a is responsible for defining the point along the horizontal axis (frequency) of figure 6b where the Amplitude A begins to fall off to zero.

Referring to figures 7 and 8, the output signal Vo, output from the inductor L 12e of figures 5 and 5a (along with output signal V before filtering), is illustrated. In figure 8, the Fourier expansion of the output signal Vo of figure 7 is illustrated. In figure 8, four primary frequency components of the output signal Vo energize the formation surrounding the borehole of figure 1: the signal appearing at $1 \times 25\text{KHz}$, the signal appearing at $2 \times 25\text{KHz}$, the signal appearing at $4 \times 25\text{KHz}$, and the signal appearing at $8 \times 25\text{KHz}$. Signals appearing at frequencies greater than or equal to $9 \times 25\text{KHz}$ have been substantially reduced (attenuated) by the filter F 12f of figure 5. Signals appearing at frequencies $5 \times 25\text{KHz}$ and $7 \times 25\text{KHz}$ are present in the overall output signal Vo, and are undesirable components of signal Vo, but their existence in output signal Vo does not detrimentally affect the signal received by receiver coil 18 and the consequent results of the processing of the received signal by the well logging truck computer.

Figure 8 illustrates an output signal Vo which includes four primary frequency components. All others frequency components (with the exception of two) in the output signal Vo have been substantially reduced or attenuated by filter F 12f. Therefore, four different currents have been generated in the inductor coil 12e of figure 5 and, therefore, four different voltages have energized the formation surrounding the borehole of figure 1. As a result, four different eddy currents flow in the surrounding formation. The receiver coils 18 detect these four different eddy currents in the formation and transmit corresponding received signals to the well logging truck computer at the surface for processing. The objective of the processing is to determine the resistivity and/or conductivity of the formation surrounding the borehole. Since four different eddy currents have simultaneously been induced in the formation, more information is sensed by the receiver coils 18 in response thereto, and more information is presented to the well logging truck at the surface for determination of the formation resistivity/conductivity. Therefore, a more accurate result of formation resistivity and conductivity is obtained during the processing.

The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a

departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. In an induction well logging tool adapted to be disposed in a borehole of an oil well, a transmitter means for transmitting a signal which induces in a surrounding formation of the borehole a corresponding signal, the transmitter means comprising:

multifrequency signal transmission means for transmitting a multi-frequency output signal, the multi-frequency output signal inducing in the formation a plurality of signals corresponding in number to the number of frequencies inherent in said multi-frequency output signal.

2. The transmitter means of claim 1 wherein the multi-frequency signal transmission means comprises:

filter means for attenuating the multi-frequency signal when a frequency of the signal is greater than or equal to a predetermined frequency, thereby yielding an attenuated multi-frequency output signal.

3. The transmitter means of claim 2 wherein the attenuated multi-frequency output signal, when subjected to a Fourier analysis, contains a plurality of individual signals, each individual signal having a different frequency from that of any other individual signal.

4. The transmitter means of claim 3, wherein the plurality of individual signals have frequencies which consist of: a first frequency, a second frequency, a fourth frequency, a fifth frequency, a seventh frequency, and an eighth frequency.

5. The transmitter means of claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of individual signals is an individual current signal, each said individual current signal having an amplitude expressed by a first relation I^1/n^2 where I^1 is the amplitude of the individual current signal at the first frequency, and n is set forth in a second relation $n \times 25 \text{ KHz}$, where said second relation represents a set of frequencies and n represents the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4,

6. The transmitter means of claim 5 wherein the amplitudes of the signals at a third and a sixth frequency are approximately zero.

7. The transmitter means of claim 6, wherein said filter means substantially attenuates the individual signals having a frequency greater than or equal to a ninth frequency.

8. A method, practiced by an induction logging tool when said tool is disposed in a borehole of an

oil well, of inducing currents in a surrounding formation of said borehole, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a multi-frequency signal from said tool which signal comprises a plurality of individual signals, each individual signal having a frequency which is different than the frequency of any other individual signal; and

radiating said formation with said multi-frequency signal, whereby a plurality of eddy currents are induced in the formation, each eddy current corresponding to one of the individual signals.

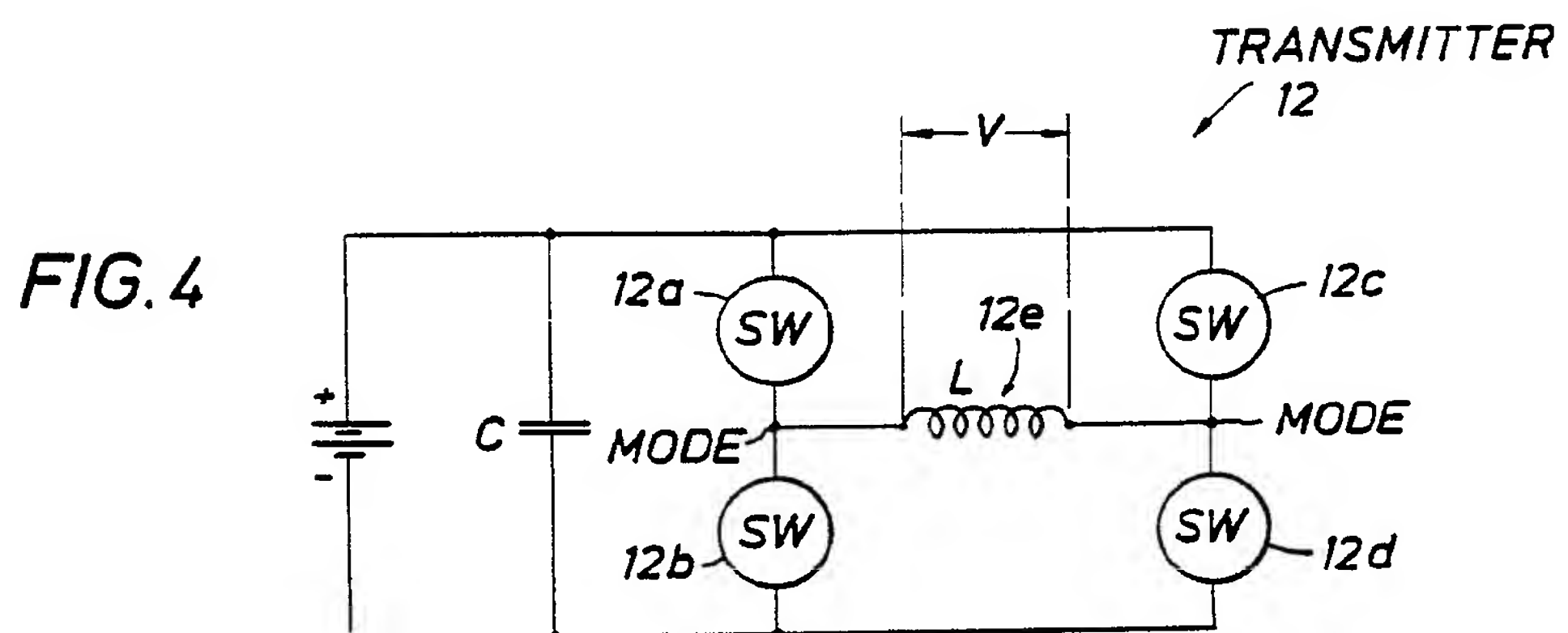
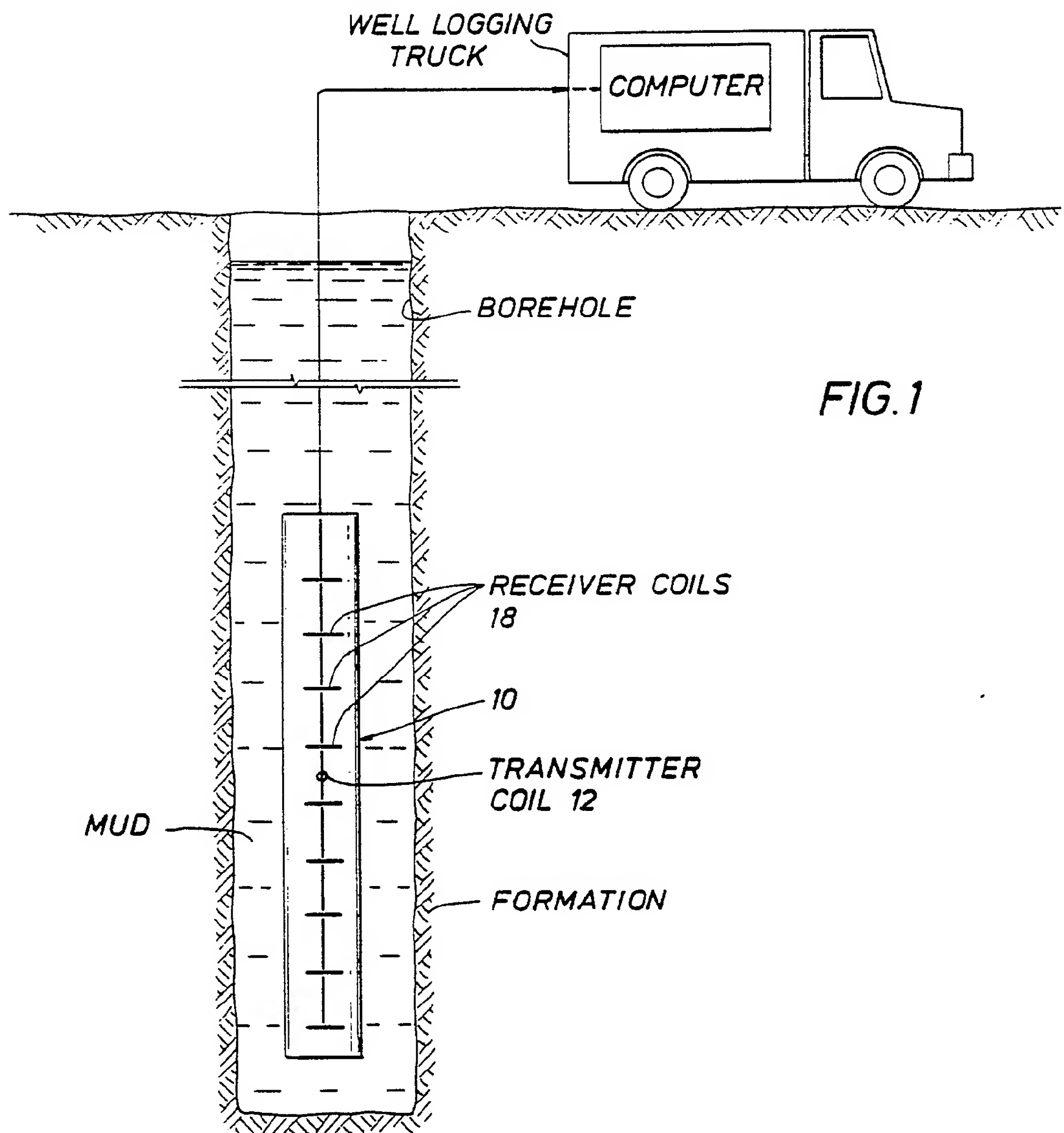


FIG. 2

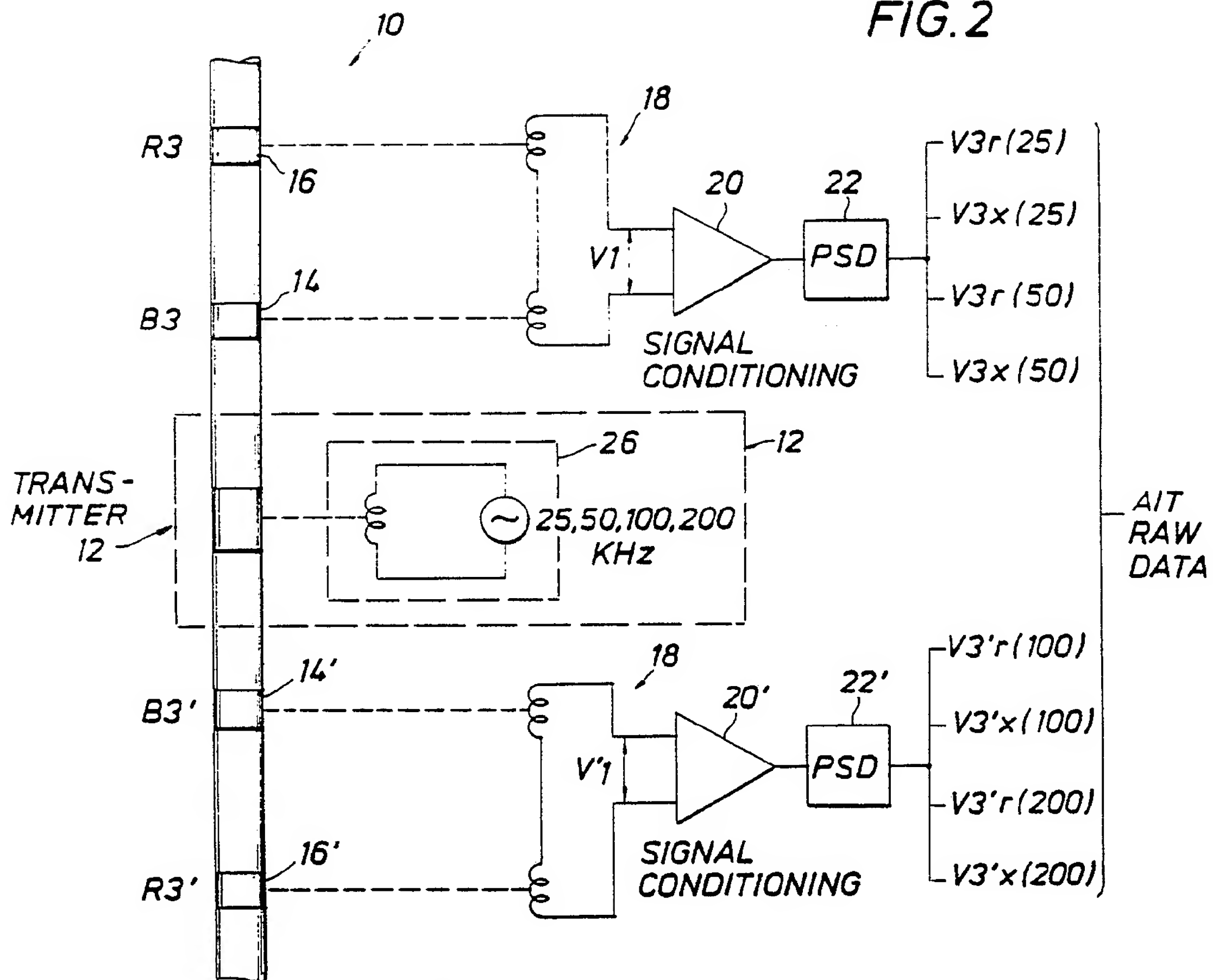


FIG. 3a

